

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 1-6 are pending for reconsideration at this time.

#### **In the Drawings**

Figures 1C, 3a-3e, 4d and 4e stand objected to as not being of sufficient quality for all of the details to be reproduced in the printed patent. New Figures are provided along with this Amendment & Reply.

Figures 4a-4e also stand objected to because they do not include the reference character 45. The reference character 45 has been deleted from the specification.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is solicited.

#### **In the Specification**

The specification stands objected to because the Brief Description of the Drawings does not describe Fig. 2d. The specification has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is solicited.

#### **In the Title**

The title stands objected to as not being descriptive. Applicants have amended the title to recite "Method for Forming a Semiconductor Device with a Hard Mask Layer Formed Over a Bit Line to Protect the Bit Line During Subsequent Etching Steps" as kindly suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection to the title is solicited.

**Claim Objections**

Claim 1 stands objected to as step (f), line 4 should include --are-- after "hole" to be grammatically correct. Claim 1 has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 1 is solicited.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2**

Claims 1 to 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 1 stands rejected as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements in step (d). Claim 1 has been amended accordingly.

Claim 5 stands rejected as being inconsistent with the specification. Claim 5 has been amended accordingly.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 is solicited.

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Attorney Docket No: 40296-0029

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that a notice of allowance be forthcoming. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any reason related to the advancement of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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**In the Drawings:**

Applicants submit herewith corrected drawing sheets as required by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed on July 27, 2004.